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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/660,887

09/12/2003

Mohamad El-Batal

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24319

7590

03/25/2004

LSI LOGIC CORPORATION

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MILPITAS, CA 95035

EXAMINER

VU, PHUONG T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/660,887

Applicant(s)

EL-BATAL ET AL.

Examiner

Phuong T. Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 recites that said second axis of insertion being substantially parallel to said second axis of insertion, which is inherent and physically required. If Applicant did not intent to recite this, this language makes the claim ambiguous and therefore is indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Carteau et al. (US 5,506,750). Regarding claim 1, the reference discloses a storage system SP with multiple disk drives comprising an enclosure, an interface board FP having a first backplane interface connector CX₁ and a second backplane interface connector CX₂, said interface board being mounted in said enclosure, said interface board being substantially planar and defining an interface board plane (which extends vertically), a first CDA₁ and second CDA₂ backplane each having a plurality of disk drive

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interface connectors C_{101} - C_{110} and a backplane interface mating connector (CAR_1 , CAR_2 respectively) capable of mating with one of said first and second backplane interface connectors, said plurality of disk drive interface connectors being arranged in a plurality of rows and a plurality of columns, said first and second backplane being substantially planar and defining a first and second backplane plane (each of which extends horizontally), a first set of disk drives 101-110 electrically connected to said first backplane through said plurality of disk drive interface connectors, each of said first set of disk drives having a longest edge defining a long axis, said long axis being oriented parallel to said first backplane plane, a second set of disk drives (another set 101-110) electrically connected to said second backplane through said plurality of disk drive interface connectors, each of said second set of disk drives having a longest edge defining a long axis, said long axis being oriented parallel to said second backplane plane, a first guiding mechanism G_1 mounted in said enclosure, said first guiding mechanism defining a first axis of insertion, said axis of insertion being substantially perpendicular to said interface board plane, said first guiding mechanism being arranged to guide said first backplane into said enclosure such that said first backplane electrically connects to said first backplane interface connector such that said first backplane plane is substantially perpendicular to said interface plane, said first backplane and said first set of disk drives being removable from said enclosure as a first single unit and a second guiding mechanism G_2 mounted in said enclosure, said second guiding mechanism defining a second axis of insertion, said second axis of insertion being substantially parallel to said first axis of insertion, said second guiding mechanism

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being arranged to guide said second backplane into said enclosure such that said second backplane electrically connects to said second backplane interface connector such that said second backplane plane is substantially perpendicular to said interface plane, said second backplane and said second set of disk drives being removable from said enclosure as a second single unit. The reference does not teach that the first and second set of disk drives wherein each of the disk drives having a longest edge defining a long axis, said long axis being oriented perpendicular to said first and second backplane plane respectively. Instead the long axis is parallel to the backplane. However, it would have been obvious that the disk drives may be positioned such that the long axis is perpendicular to the backplane to provide better cooling to the storage system.

Regarding claim 2, the system further comprises a first frame P_1 into which is mounted said first backplane and said first set of disk drives and a second frame P_2 into which is mounted said second backplane and said second set of disk drives.

Regarding claim 3, the first backplane is substantially a mirror image of said second backplane.

Regarding claim 4, the first backplane and said second backplane are identical and interchangeable.

Regarding claim 6, the interface board comprises a RAID controller.

Regarding claim 7, the first set of disk drives is a RAID mirror of said second set of disk drives.

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Regarding claim 8, one of said first backplane and second backplane may be removed from said enclosure while said storage system is operable.

Regarding claims 9-10, the storage system further comprises a first power supply AL₁ and a second power supply AL₂.

Regarding method claims 11-20, one would necessarily perform the recited method steps in constructing the storage system rejected above.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong T. Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-2111. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. & Tues., 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David S. Martin can be reached on (571) 272-2107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PTVu
Patent Examiner
3-20-04

